

To Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Debra McKinnon and I work at CCARC, Inc. in New Britain, CT as a Day Services Manager. CCARC was founded in 1952 and provides a wide array of services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a testimony on the state budget as I am not able to attend the public hearing tomorrow.

First and foremost, thank you for the 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for community nonprofits that you fought to include in last year's budget. I'd like to ask you to honor the long term plan to address the underfunding of community nonprofits and increase funding this year by an additional \$461 million, or 8% in total for FY23.

This funding is needed now more than ever!! Without it we risk destabilizing our state's community service delivery system which has been greatly impacted by the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and exponential increase in the need for services in our communities. More importantly, as a Manager, I am faced with the unprecedented challenge of filling any open staff positions. This causes a burden on our daily service delivery as staff who are currently employed are now providing services to larger groups of individuals, minimizing a person centered approach which is what we strive to do.

Nonprofit providers, such as CCARC, funded by the Department of Developmental Services, are very grateful for the continued efforts of the Appropriations Committee and Governor Lamont to address wage and funding issues specific to services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please continue to address this concern.

Thank you,

Debra McKinnon
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